



**Summer Reading – Grade 9
Stoneham High School
Stoneham, Massachusetts**

During your summer vacation, we hope you will enjoy reading. Studies have shown that students who read often perform better academically. Please find your course level below for the reading requirements.

- ❖ **ALL LEVELS:** Read *Children of the River* by Linda Crew. This is a good companion piece to *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*, and it introduces the yearlong theme of Dreams. Our discussions will focus on the question *How do our dreams shape our destinies?* It tells the story of Sundara, a young Cambodian teenager who fled from Cambodia to the United States during the Khmer Rouge slaughter (also known as “the killing fields”). Sundara now struggles to fit in at a high school in Oregon. Values clash as she struggles to be both a typical teenager and a “good Cambodian girl.” All levels will take a test on this book during the first week of school.

- ❖ **HONORS:** Read two books of your choice from the Recommended Reading list. You will be writing about your reading in class during the first week of school. For each book, you may bring in four, handwritten 3” by 5” note cards -single sided only- to help in the writing assignments; these notes should focus on the inner struggles of the main character and the main themes of the story. It would be wise to write these notes as soon as you finish the book. The test (on *Children of the River*) and the in-class assignments will count as test grades for first quarter. The quality of these assignments will be used as a measure of the appropriateness of your level.

- ❖ **INTENSIVE and COMPREHENSIVE:** For your second book, choose a title from the Recommended Reading list to enjoy as you keep your reading skills strong.